

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application with Claims 27-41 being withdrawn from consideration. Of these pending claims, Claims 1-26, stand rejected. By way of this paper, Claim 1 has been amended.

The foregoing amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding office action, and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Hawkins ('222) reference.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly point out that the fluid drop steering device is operable to optionally apply energy insufficient to cause drop formation to fluid present in the fluid chamber when fluid is within the fluid chamber. Support for this amendment can be found on at least page 12, line 10, and page 16, lines 20-21 of the specification.

The Hawkins ('222) reference discloses an air stream 34 extending from an air tube 32 that flows across an ejected droplet 16 trajectory. Droplets 16 in the form of large droplets 28 and small droplets 26 are deflected by air stream 34 after being ejected through a nozzle 18 (col. 5, lines 35-36, 38-39, 47-49, and 51-55). As such, air tube 32 does not optionally apply energy insufficient to cause drop formation to fluid present in the fluid chamber when fluid is within the fluid chamber as described in claim 1. Instead, air tube 32 applies air stream 34 to droplets 16 after droplets 16 have been ejected through nozzle 18. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6-8, 13-15, 17, 21, 22, 24, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hawkins. ('222) reference in view of the Anagnostopoulos et al. ('595) reference.

Claims 2-4, 19, 23, and 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hawkins ('222) and Anagnostopoulos et al. ('595) reference and further in view of the Sharma et al. ('973) reference.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hawkins ('222), Anagnostopoulos et al. ('595), and Sharma et al. ('973) and further in view of Hawkins et al. ('197).

Claims 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hawkins ('222), and Anagnostopoulos et al. ('595), and further in view of Dante et al. ('547).

Claims 16, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hawkins ('222), and Anagnostopoulos et al. ('595), and further in view of Jeanmaire et al. ('362).

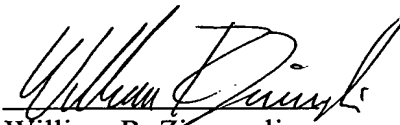
Claims 2-26 depend either directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1 and are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of Claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of Claims 2-26 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned in the event that a phone interview will expedite prosecution of this application towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


William R. Zimmerli
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 45,287

WRZ/rgd
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: (585) 588-2758
Facsimile: (585) 477-4646

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.